A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Obſervations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tueſday, March 13. 1705.

BEing Entred upon the Article of the Decay and Diſaſters of our Home-Trade, I promis'd the Publick a Letter, ſent me by way of Anſwer to my Obſervations on the Work-houſes in *England*, being prejudicial to the Manufactures in general: The Letter is as follows.

Gent. of the Scand. Club,

IN your Review of Saturday *laſt*, *you object against the* Workhouſe *in* Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, *becauſe they Spin Worſted, Yarn, &c. and for a Reaſon ſay, That for every Skein Spun there, there is, or muſt be one the leſs Spun elſewhere, which is falſe in fact, as well as that you talk of about* Colcheſter Bays; *for in the Year* 1690, *there was little or no Worſted Yarn ſpun in* Yorkſhire (*nor in ſeveral other Counties*) *where they now ſpin at leaſt* 20 *Packs a Week, that is* 240 lib. *or about* 50 *Groſs, as they call it, in each Pack; now each Groſs contains* 244 *Skeins, and yet no one place in* England *ſpins the leſs, that did ſpin any before, I mean for that Reaſon: So alſo in the Year* 1688, *ſcarce any Stuffs were made in* London; (*I mean ſuch Stuffs as imitate thoſe made in* Norwich) *and now there is of ſuch Stuffs* 4 *or* 5000 *Pieces made every Week* (*each containing* 36 *Yards*) *and yet there never was more Yards of Stuffs made in* Norwich, *than has been made for* 3 *or* 4 *Years laſt paſt; in which time, has been the greateſt Quantities made in* London; *which two Obſervations ſufficiently declare the weakneſs of your Reaſons aforeſaid: If you ask, what comes of them? And whither they go? That*, Sir, *is not at preſent my Buſineſs. I conclude with this only deſire, that you'd Anſwer theſe following Queſtions*, viz.

1. "Whether 'tis not the Intereſt of *Eng-*
"*land*, that all their Wooll be Manufactur'd
"here?

2. "If ſo, how it ſhould be Manufactured,
"unleſs firſt Spun?

3. "If ſo, how thoſe People can be Preju-
"dicial, that are Imployed in Spinning, ſince
"they hurt no Body elſe?

Gentlemen,

What is here written, is not becauſe I diſlike your Deſign in Printing your Review; *for in my Poor Opinion, 'tis a very Valuable Undertaking, and the Publick beholden to you for it; but to let you ſee how an Honeſt Man may do the Publick a Diſſervice only by a miſtaken or Ignorant Notion. If you can Convince me I am in the wrong, I'll ſubmit; if not, I expect ye Recant. I am,*

Gentlemen,

Dec. 26. 1704. *Yours heartily,* W. W.

To this Letter the Anſwer is very ſhort; all this Proves or Diſproves nothing, but that there is a great Encreaſe of the Trade in Druggets, Stuffs, &c.

But even this very Argument and Letter proves the thing I am upon; for that the Increaſe of one Manufacture, is the Decay of another, and the Spinning in one County, the Death of Spinning in another; but it no way diſproves, That the more Yarn is Spun in *London*, the leſs would be Spun in the Country, or the more Yarn is Spun by the Vagabond Poor, in a Workhouſe, the leſs will be left to be Spun by the Diligent Poor out of the Workhouſe.

And to anſwer this Gentleman's Allegation, he is deſir'd with me to conſider what Towns, nay, what whole Counties in *England*, are perfectly cut out of the Clothing Trade, and the Manufacture in a manner vaniſh'd from among them, purely by the encreaſe of this Trade of Druggets and Stuffs.

And now I come to his Letter in particular:

Firſt, This Gentleman begs the Queſtion, That there being ſo much Yarn Spun in *Yorkſhire*, there is none the leſs Spun any where elſe.

And ſo many Stuffs made in *London*, there is none the leſs made in *Norwich*.

In ſhort, Sir, *How do you prove this Negative?* Is a Queſtion you can never Anſwer; and therefore, allowing the Fact to be true, the Aſſumption is falſe.

And tho' I need go no farther to Anſwer this Gentleman, he having drawn his Concluſions from wrong Premiſes, yet I ſhall go on to prove, That I do not take things upon Truſt, and by Gueſs as he does, and I'll undertake to prove the contrary.

That for the Encreaſe of theſe Manufacturings in *Yorkſhire* and in *Spittle-fields*, there is a Decreaſe in other Parts, and it muſt be ſo; or elſe he muſt allow our Trade to be Encreas'd, as to the Conſumption of our Manufactures in general, which will be a thing he will find hard to make good; and if not, he muſt find out ſome New Mine in Trade, ſome Subterranean Cavity, at which our Trade has found ſome Channel which I know not of.

And Firſt, Sir, as to the vaſt Quantity of Yarn Spun in *Yorkſhire*, and the Quantity of Stuffs made in *Spittle-fields*, I muſt obſerve to you, tho' you are pleas'd to make them two Things, they are but one United Article, for that Yarn comes to *Spittle-fields* to make thoſe Stuffs.

Now here are 5000 Pieces of Stuffs made in *Spittle-fields*, you ſay, every Week, and not one Piece the leſs at *Norwich*.

Firſt, Sir, I'll prove this is not true in Fact.

Secondly, That if it was true, it does not Anſwer your End in this Argument at all.

Firſt, If there are not the fewer Stuffs made at *Norwich*, yet there is leſs Yarn us'd in *Norfolk* than was before; and I appeal to the Inhabitants of that Trading County, and the Perſons concern'd in thoſe Trades, for the following Particulars.

1. That one whole Manufacture, *viz.* of Stockings, is in a manner quite ſunk in that County, and if nothing but that one Article were to come into our Scale, I muſt tell my Antagoniſt, That ſince I can remember, there went Weekly from the County of *Norfolk*, more Stockings to *London*, to *Holland* and *France*, than all the Yarn Employ'd in *Spittle fields*, to make the 5000 Pieces of Stuffs a Week, amounts to; and in the room of all this vaſt Quantity, I believe the whole County does not now ſend away 200 *l.* worth *per* Week.

The Manufacture is quite ſunk; whole Towns, which in former Times were almoſt wholly Employ'd in it, do not now Knit the Hoſe they wear, the Makers of them are Dead, and none take up the Trade in their room; the large Towns of *Deerham*, *Wimondham*, . . . *Northwalſham*, *Lynn*, and *Yarmouth* are living Teſtimonies of what I ſay; the firſt of theſe Towns have quite laid by the Trades, the two laſt, make now leſs than a twentieth part; and the City of *Norwich*, not the hundredth part of the Quantities they formerly did.

Thus the Fact is not true, for it is apparent, the more Yarn is Spun in *Yorkſhire*, and the more Stuffs made in *Spittle-fields*, the leſs Yarn is Spun ſomewhere elſe.

If any Man ſhall add, All theſe Trades are turn'd into Stuffs; I reply, by asking this Queſtion, Tho' if it were ſo, it were nothing to the purpoſe, our Debate being not on this or that Commodity made; for the Variety is too great, and one falls as another riſes in Quantity; but if there be as much Yarn uſed in *Norfolk* as ever, why then do all the Neighbouring Counties, who uſed to carry their Yarn to *Norwich*, now bring it to *London*? Nay, even from *Norwich* itſelf, they ſend their Yarn Unwrought to *London*, to be Wove here.

This is ſo undeniable a proof of the Caſe, as to any thing that has but half an Eye, that it muſt be convincing; and, I think, I need not go on to prove, that there are not really ſo ma-

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ny Stuffs made at *Norwich, as uſual*; and that many of the Maſter-Weavers are removed to *Spittle-fields*; and that in many Out-Towns, as at *Lynn*, *North-Walſham*, and ſeveral other Towns, the Manufacture Vaniſhes, and leaves hardly its Ruines to ſhow it has been there.

But I come now to prove, if this were ſo, it does not anſwer the Caſe; for this would but prove, that the Stuff Trade is Encreaſed in *England*; and tho' this is true, what can be infer'd from hence, but that the Clothing Trade in *England*, is ſunk in proportion? And if I prove that, I ſtill prove what I alledg'd at firſt, with the double Advantage of Argument.

I have more than once ſpoken of it as a Complaint, that by the Introduction of the *French* Cuſtoms and Trade, we are Unhappily fallen in to Imitate their Manufactures, Wear their Stuffs, their Crapes, their Druggets, in the room of our own *Engliſh* Broad-cloth; ſo fond are the People of this Unhappy Nation of Foreign Cuſtoms, and ſo thoughtleſs of the Damage they thereby do their own Country, whoſe Blood and Bowels they eat out, when they Introduce any new thing that Wounds her Staple Manufactures.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

THE Error Expos'd, in the following Letter, is ſo Epidemick, and generally eſteem'd ſo Modiſh, that it is doubted, whether it ought not to paſs among the *Incurables*; and as ſuch the Society were once a going to throw it by, as not fit to be meddl'd with; but upon ſecond Thoughts they reſolv'd to let it have a Room here, that its Ugly Picture might, if poſſible, fright ſome unwary young *Beginners in the Art of Deſpiſing their Teachers*, from the Unmanly, as well as Unchriſtian Cuſtom.

Gentlemen,

BEing lately at a Coffee-Houſe within the Bills of Mortality, where a Perſon of ſome Note, took the freedom to rail at, and ſeverely to reflect upon the Clergy in particular; nor did he ſpeak better of the Teachers of any Party, (tho' he was of ſome Profeſſion) but cry'd all were alike, Prieſtcraft and Knavery in the Bottom.

I need not tell you, Gentlemen, *how much Religion ſuffers by ſuch open Prophaneneſs; and you living, to your Immortal Honour, made it your Buſineſs to expoſe ſuch Scandalous Practices; I hope therefore, however the Offender may eſcape his due Puniſhment, he'll not miſs of your Severeſt Cenſures, which he juſtly deſerves.*

I am your Well-wiſher,

March 9. *and Admirer,*

1703. A. B. C.

Before the Anſwer to this Letter begins, the Society ordered this Notice to be given. They do not in this Caſe diſtinguiſh Parties in Religion, and indeed reſolve, as far as poſſible, to avoid it in all their Writings; and therefore they deſire, that thoſe who have any Party-Piques or Queſtions to ask, that reflect on Parties, they would be pleas'd not to ſend them to this Work, for that they will be moſt certain to receive no other Anſwer than is contain'd in a juſt Reproof of the Practice.

To reflect on all the Miniſters of God's Word, is to reflect on the Univerſal Miſſion of a Goſpel Miniſtry; 'tis to reflect on the General Spring of the Eccleſiaſtick Oeconomy, the means of Divine Conveyance, and the only Human Channel of a Chriſtian's Felicity.

'Tis a certain Token of no Religion in them that do it; while they brand their Teachers with no Religion, only becauſe they have too much for them.

The Office of a Miniſter, take it with all its Envy'd Emoluments, and its greateſt real Dignities, is but a Meanneſs in the Common Acceptation, and Men have taken care, *in the Aid of their own Vices*, to load the Clergy with ſo much Contempt, that this alone is a Teſtimony for them, that their Office and Calling is from above; that Men who can any other way provide for themſelves, do not Abandon the Office as ſoon as they are able to ſubſiſt, and others are not Diſcourag'd from Educating their Children in it.

Whoever he is that Dedicates a Son to the Gown, knows he places him on the Frontiers of Scandal; places him on a Stage of Reproach, to be palted by all the Agents of Atheiſm, and

Prophaneneſs

Prophaneneſs; all they that have no Religion, will ſay he has none, as my Lord *Rochester* in another Caſe ſays,

The Knaves will all agree to call him Knave.

The little room this Paper happens to allow, Contracts this Subject ſo narrow, that the Author humbly asks the Pardon of the Gentlemen for defending their Cauſe ſo ill, and refers the Reader to another Occaſion, to ſay ſomething more to this Deteſtable Practice.

☞ PROPOSALS (*different from all others yet publiſh'd*) for a *Perpetual Aſſurance Office*: Wherein either S E X may Subſcribe, and by Paying 6 *l. per Annum*, ſecure an equal Dividend of 10000 *l.* at their Deaths, which in all probability cannot amount to leſs than 500Pounds, or a much greater Sum, to any Perſon they ſhall Name, beſides 3 *l.* out of every 6 *l.* which they ſhall have Paid, together with other Advantages (during Life) which will reduce every Member's Yearly Payment to leſs than 40 *s.* Subſcriptions are taken, and Propoſals at large given *gratis*, by *J. Matthews* a Printer, and Mr. *Sawbridge*, in in Little-Brittain; Mr. *Barnes*'s, in Pall-Mall; Mr. *Nutt*, near Stationers-Hall; Mr. *Straban* and Mr. *Davis* in Cornhill; Mr. *Hodgſon*'s in Holborn; Mr. *Barker* in Weſtminſter-Hall; and Mr. *Cox*, at Temple-Bar, Bookſellers. (*** Note, *That no Money is to be Paid, till the Society be full, and Security given.*) Againſt which, if any Subſcriber ſhall object, he ſhall be at Liberty, whether he will ſtand to his Subſcription, or not.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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To Morrow will be Publiſh'd.

SEveral Diſcourſes, *viz.* Of three Books which teach us the Knowledge of God. Of Juſtice and Mercy in general. Of Mercy in relieving the Poor. Of Mercy in Forgiving Enemies, and of Humility. Of the Original of the World. Of the Original and Pedigree of Man. Of the Chief End and Duty of Man. Of God's Command, and of an Univerſal Repentance. Of the laſt Judgment. Of the three different ſorts of St. *Paul's* Auditors. Of the happy ſtate of them that die in the Lord. St. *Paul's* Confeſſion of Faith. Of *David's* Triumphant Hymn. All Preach'd in *Ireland*. By the Right Reverend Father in God, *William Sheridan*, D. D. Lord Biſhop of *Kilmore* and *Ardagh*. Printed for *Geo. Sawbridge* at the three Flower-de-Luces in *Little-Britain*, 1705.

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LIves Engliſh and Foreign: Containing the Hiſtory of the moſt Illuſtrious Perſons of our own and other Nations, from the Year 1559, to the Year 1690. By ſeveral Hands; who have been aſſiſted in the Work with many private Memoirs. In two Volumes in 8*vo*. The Engliſh Lives are, *William* Lord *Burleigh*, Sir *Walter Raleigh*, *George* Duke of *Buckingham*, Marqueſs of *Montroſs*, *Oliver Cromwell*, Duke of *Hamilton*, General *Blake*, Duke of *Albemarle*, Earl of *Shaftsbury*, Duke of *Monmouth*. Printed for *B. Took*, at the Middle-Temple Gate in *Fleet-ſtreet*; and *W. Davis*, at the Black Bull in *Cornhil*; and ſold by *J. Nutt* near *Stationers-Hall*.

Juſt Publiſhed,

THE Suplement to the Advice from the Scandal Club, for the Month of December, 1704. N°. 4. Note, There will alſo be ſpeedily Publiſh'd, another Supplement, with a Title, Preface, and Index, which will compleat the Firſt Volume; Afterwards 'twill be conſtantly Publiſh'd, about the 20th of every Month.

Speedily will be Publiſh'd,

THE *Conſolidators*; or, Memoirs of ſundry Tranſactions in *the World in the Moon*: By a Native of that Climate. Tranſlated from the Lunar Language, by the Author of *The True-born Engliſh Man*.